

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087659
ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MASS, TU, GR, PEPR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING: ARMS TO TURKEY AND
GREECE

FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM UNCORRECTED TRANSCRIPT OF
DEPARTMENT'S APRIL 5 DAILY NEWS BRIEFING:

Q: COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHY YOU GIVE ARMS TO TURKEY
AND GREECE?

A: THIS WHOLE SUBJECT OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, OUR
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AND THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS OF
THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, WILL BE TAKEN UP IN SOME DETAIL BY
SECRETARY VANCE AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER IN THEIR
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
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TOMORROW.

Q: I UNDERSTAND THAT. I AM NOT SPEAKING ABOUT EMBARGO.
I AM SPEAKING GENERALLY WHY YOU ARM THOSE TWO COUNTRIES.

A: THEY ARE MEMBERS OF NATO, AMONG OTHER REASONS.

Q: THEN COULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHY YOU DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE FACT THAT AS SOON AS YOU DELIVER IT OR YOU SAY YOU WILL DELIVER 30 OR 40 PHANTHOMS TO TURKEY, IMMED-

IATELY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT IT TOO WOULD ORDER 26 PHANTHOMS IN ORDER TO PROTECT ITS RIGHTS AGAINST TURKEY?

THAT IS, IF YOU ARE ARMING THEM FOR NATO PURPOSES, WHICH I ASSUME IT IS AGAINST WAR SUPPLIED COUNTRIES, HOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS ATTITUDE?

A: SIR, I AM REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO GO INTO THIS FOR YOU. I MEAN THE REQUEST OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT FOR ARMS, I MEAN THEIR MOTIVES FOR THAT REQUEST I THINK YOU SHOULD ASK THAT QUESTION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. BUT I AM HERE TODAY, AS HODDING WAS YESTERDAY, IN THE POSITION OF NOT WANTING TO PREEMPT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND SO I AM JUST NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THOSE QUESTIONS WITH YOU. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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